

T.O.M.E.

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***This Issue's Theme:
Adventure***

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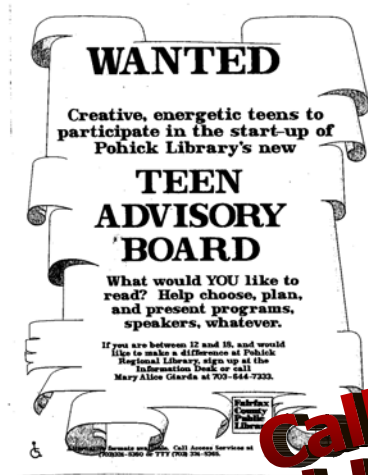
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*Books are the carriers of
civilization. Without books, history
is silent, literature dumb, science
crippled, thought and speculation at
a standstill.*

--Barbara Tuchman

**Calling All
Poet Laureates!**

Poetry Contest Rules

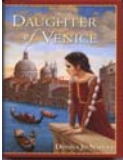
1. Poems should be no more than one page each. You may submit as many poems as you like.
2. Must be turned in by August 31, 2002 at the POHICK Library Information Desk.
3. Prizes will be awarded during Teen Read Week (October 13—19)
4. All winners' poems will be published in the T.O.M.E. Times.
5. It doesn't have to rhyme—free verse is fine with us!
6. Write your own stuff. We will not be impressed if you write like Emily Dickinson, only suspicious.
7. No bribing the judges!
8. Poems will become the property of the Teen Advisory Board.

Feedback

**The T.O.M.E. Times has a spot
just for you!**

If you have a question about a book, author, etc., you may submit it to us. It may be published along with an answer in our following issue. Please submit all of your questions to the information desk.

Also, if you have a comment or request to have something included in the newsletter, feel free to submit it as well. Please leave your name and contact information so we can get back to you.



Daughter of Venice, Adventures of a Rich Kid

By Sadia Latifi

She can't vote. She can't hold office. She can't read or write. She can't take a walk in her own neighborhood. She can't pick whom she is going to marry or if she is even going to get married. (Although, there's always the excitement of becoming a nun to await her....)

She is Donata, the protagonist in Daughter of Venice. The year is 1592. Donata is a noble living in Venice among one of the wealthiest families. Life should be good, right? Wrong. She is not able to do anything for herself. It doesn't bother her eleven other siblings, but the thought of being sheltered her whole life disconcerts her. She is filled with a longing that can only be felt in her fourteen years of age, so she decides to do something about it.

Donata is the second or third girl in the family, depending on what her father says. She has a twin—Laura, and together they grow up in beautiful Italy, “dreaming” of lives they are forced to lead. All is well until Andriana, the oldest sister, prepares to marry. In Venetian society, only one girl in the family is blessed enough to get married, two if they are extremely lucky. Where does that leave Donata and Laura? There can't possibly be a third daughter between them who is destined for life in a convent, can there? In their strong camaraderie they choose to believe that they will both be married. Ignorance can be bliss until you learn the truth.

Donata spends the beginning of her adolescence working for her mother, attending parties, and acting nothing short of a “proper noble woman.” She finds herself ruminating about what “proper” really is. Is it having the fairest skin? Or is it keeping all of her opinions to herself? Her various queries begin when her father's map room mesmerizes her. It is a place where no “woman” like herself should be. She cannot resist temptation and looks through maps of Venice, a place she knows as home, except it looks completely unfamiliar. This is where her adventure begins.

Donata recognizes areas where she has been before, but she cannot identify most other places. Her yearning spawns a daring quest to see all of Venice, the good, and the bad – with or without her parents' permission.

Napoli does a fantastic job of depicting Venice in the 1500s with small details that are not too heavy, but can also give a clear picture in my eyes of what life is like there. Venetian details were thoroughly researched and it shows. Napoli also creates unique characters that remain consistent throughout. This is especially noticed with the twins, who, although they look exactly the same, also have completely different personalities. She does a fine job in making Donata an extrovert and her twin the exact opposite. I was also impressed when she based the story in a noble girl's point of view, instead of the predictable peasant boy story. The story flowed with ease and it made sense from page to page. It just wasn't as interesting as I would have liked. At first, I was hoping her endeavors in the city of Venice would be more thrilling, but then I realized that for Donata, a girl who hasn't even experienced the place where she has lived, seeing a synagogue is a big deal. Logical, but not necessarily exciting. I think my qualms with the book were also due in part to the fact that I was a bit over the targeted audience for it. (If it's any consolation, the books jacket says “10 and up”.) Overall, it was a simple feel-good novel. As the story goes on, more problems dealing with marriage and love, helped sustain my interest in it.

Donata surprises us all and overcomes her non-existing rights and educates herself and others. She teaches readers a thing or two about family, morals, and beliefs while she's at it. Her narrow life in Venice just might get a bit wider.

The Tomorrow Series by John Marsden

Review by Shweta Kumar

Tomorrow When the War Began begins this series of war and destruction from a teenage perspective. A group of Australian teenagers headed by Ellie, a confident and assertive sixteen-year-old, go camping in the bush for a week. Upon their return home, they discover that their country has been invaded, their friends and families have been captured and they decide to go into hiding in their outback sanctuary, simply known as Hell. Using guerilla tactics and killing with their bare hands, if needed, they try to free their country and its citizens.

The series consists of 6 books so far:

Tomorrow When the War Began – Ellie and her friends Homer, Fi, Robyn, Lee, Chris, Corrie, and Kevin return from a camping trip to find their country invaded and their families captured. They move into Hell and use guerilla warfare to free their country.

Dead of the Night – The second installment in the series has our heroes featured in more exploits in an attempt to defeat the invaders. Ellie describes their time spent with Harvey's Heroes and how relationships within the group begin to develop.

A Killing Frost – This volume features the group's expedition to rescue Kevin, a friend captured earlier, and the sinking of the enemy ship in Cobbler's Bay, impairing the invaders' capabilities.

Darkness Be My Friend – The five people left in the group have been airlifted to New Zealand into safety. Just when they thought the nightmare was over, they are asked to guide a party of raiders into Wirawee (their hometown). When the raiders don't return, the group must again come face to face with the invasion.

Burning for Revenge – The five have been abandoned in enemy territory by the New Zealand General. With no plans, they climb into the back of a truck and end up in the Wirawee Airfield at the headquarters of the enemy invasion. Ellie and her friends must survive against hundreds of enemy soldiers and do so in some daring adventures.

The Night is For Hunting – In this book, Ellie and her friends take in ferals, children who have been left to run wild.

More adventures of Ellie and her gang will be featured in ***The Other Side of Dawn***, which is to be published in August of this year. This series is recommended for grades 8 and up due to violence and some of the situations that occur.

Downriver

By Ashley Kang

Downriver, by Will Hobbs, is a story of a group of delinquent teenagers. They are together for an educational wilderness trip, led by their adult guide, Al.

The basic storyline revolves around Jessie, who has been hanging out with college kids lately in response to her father's new practice of dating. Her father is concerned and he sends her to find herself and be independent. She is immediately smitten with the charismatic Troy, but just can't add up all the little details to see that Troy is a control freak and doesn't care about her at all. (The romance part of the novel falls short of the mark.)

Troy persuades the group to steal Al's equipment and run the Grand Canyon's whitewater rapids. Of course, this is all illegal because they don't have a permit. At first everything is fine and dandy and under control, but then the story suddenly turns into a chase scene. They are running from policemen in helicopters, running out of food, and wary of Troy's tenuous sanity. This might sound like an exciting plot, BUT.... The characters are most important in almost any type of story, and this book is no different. Except for the fact that the author has done a terrible job with teenage characterization. All the characters are completely flat and it is impossible to be able to relate to any of them because they are so fake. They are all too easily labeled as Adam the joker, Pug the typical muscle-massing jock who just happens to be egotistical and dumb as a doorknob, Rita, the street smart New Yorker, and Freddy, the strong silent loner type. Star is a mystical tarot reading kind of girl and is way too hokey. Jessie becomes close friends with her, and she refers to her dreamily as "my sister". The author seems to be dealing with too many characters for him to handle and it becomes an unrealistic story with an unrealistic cast of characters. He probably realized that, if only slightly, and got rid of Heather early on in the story; who wasn't much of a character anyway.

Overall, it makes for an easy summer read, but it is not recommended unless there is absolutely nothing else to do.



Pandora's Clock

by Libby Sherwood

After a man collapses from what seems to be an ordinary heart attack on board a 747, two hundred forty four people suddenly find themselves trapped in the sky with the entire world terrified of them. No one will tell the flight why they're denied landing, so they have little choice but to become a renegade airplane after even their own country turns against them. Trying to stay alive, the captain and crew attempt to discover why an 'influenza strain' is preventing them from landing, only to find that they all may be doomed to a terrible death. As their fuel runs out and they're becoming more and more desperate, people are forced to work together for the good of those on the airplane and struggle for a solution.

This book keeps the reader interested even though being stuck on an airplane may not seem that enthralling. There are so many different points of view in this book that something exciting is always going on. The author made me feel a connection with the main character, the captain, especially when he has to deal with his snobby co-pilot. By letting you into the characters' thoughts, the author gives you a deeper understanding of what they are going through. If you found The Hot Zone or the movie *Speed* interesting and exciting, you're sure to love Pandora's Clock by John J. Nance.



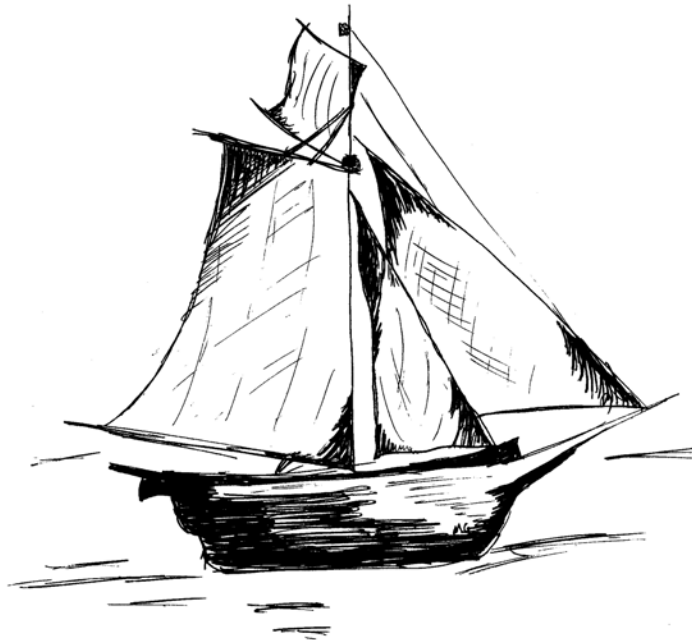
The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The tide rises, the tide falls,
The twilight darkens, the curlew calls;
Along the sea-sands damp and brown
The traveller hastens toward the town,
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

Darkness settles on roofs and walls,
But the sea, the sea in the darkness calls;
The little waves, with their soft, white hands,
Efface the footprints in the sands,
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

The morning breaks; the steeds in their stalls
Stamp and neigh, as the hostler calls;
The day returns, but nevermore
Returns the traveller to the shore,
And the tide rises, the tide falls.



From Last Issue...

Answers to "Famous One-Liners"

1. It was in the spring of the year 1894 that all London was interested, and the fashionable world dismayed, by the murder of the Honorable Ronald Adair under the most unusual circumstances. *The Adventure of the Empty House*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
2. A cage of steel. *In the Forests of the Night*, Amelia Atwater-Rhodes
3. TRUE! –nervous – very, very dreadfully nervous I had been and am; but why *will* you say that I am mad? *The Tell-Tale Heart*, Edgar Allan Poe
4. "Trans Island flight one-oh-one to Maui," the speakers in the airport lounge called out. "Please board now." *Bury Me Deep*, Christopher Pike
5. Many years ago, I contracted an intimacy with a Mr. William Legrand. *The Gold Bug*, Edgar Allan Poe.

Answers to Sherlock Holmes Trivia

People:

1.Professor Moriarity, 2.Mycroft Holmes, 3.Colonel Moran,4.Ms. Hudson, 5.Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, 6.Irene Adler, 7.Professor Moriarity, 8.Watson, 9.Mary Russell.

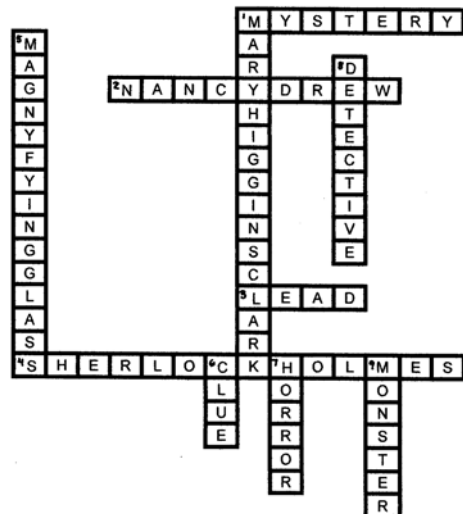
Places:

1.Afghanistan, 2.221B Baker Street, 3.Watson's House, 4.London, the Strand Magazine.

Cases:

1.The Six Napoleons, 2.The Hound of the Baskervilles, 3.Speckled Band, 4.Final Problem, 5.Empty House

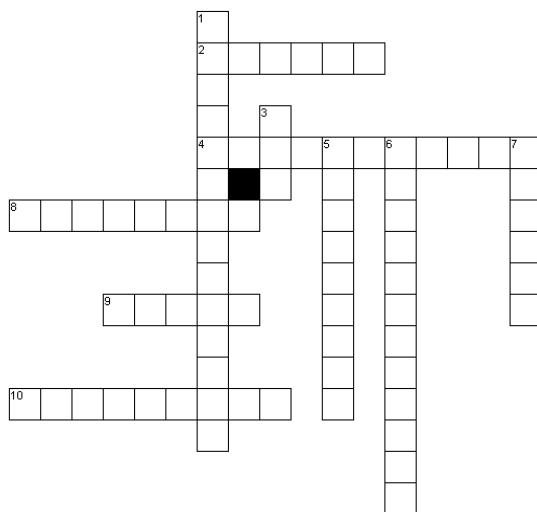
Mystery Crossword Puzzle Answers



Adventure Puzzle

Across

- 2. White-water _____
- 4. The Swiss Robinson Family was _____
- 8. Pirates bury this
- 9. a journey in search of something
- 10. Author of Pandora's Clock



Down

- 1. Long John Silver
- 3. Number of Books in the Tomorrow Series
- 5. Author of Downriver
- 6. Count of Monte Cristo's real name
- 7. Protagonist of Daughter of Venice



Artwork

On Horseback, Cover; Wolf, Page 4:
Christine Beisel
China, Page 5: Jennifer Kim
Huck Finn, Above; Sailboat, Page 6:

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